

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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SUBJECT: LOCAL ELECTIONS FOR WARD COUNCILS

REF: FLORENCE 648, ROME 19631

1. HERewith ARE DETAILS IN PERCENTAGE OF VOTE OF FINAL RESULTS IN ELECTIONS FOR WARD COUNCILS IN FLORENCE AND AREZZO. PERCENTAGE RESULTS OF 1975 ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE AS COMPARED WITH WARD COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOLLOW IN PARANTHESES.

2. FLORENCE: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS 34.3 (29, PLUS 5.32)# COMMUNISTS 44.6 (41.5, PLUS 3.18)# SOCIALISTS 10.2 (10.4, MINUS 0.15)# NEOFASCISTS 3.2 (5.2, MINUS 2)# SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 2.1

(5.2, MINUS 3.12)# LIBERALS 1.7 (2.3, MINUS 0.50)# REPUBLICANS 3.8 (3.7, MINUS 0.01).

3. AREZZO: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS 38.00 (33.4, PLUS 5.6)# COMMUNISTS 30.9 (41.3, MINUS 10.4)# SOCIALISTS 8.7 (12.00, MINUS 3.3)# SOCIAL DEMOCRATS 3.2 (2.5, PLUS 0.7)# LIBERALS 1.6 (1.8, MINUS 0.2)# REPUBLICANS 1.4 (1.4, 0)# PROLETARIANS 1.5 (3.1, MINUS 1.6)# COALITION OF THE LEFT 14.7 (0.0).

4. COMMENT: FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS, I BELIEVE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL COMPARISON BETWEEN THE RESULTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SUBJECT ELECTIONS AND THOSE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTIONS

OF 1975 WOULD BE AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY. FIRST OF ALL THE ISSUES, THE PERSONALITIES AND THE TYPE OF CANDIDATES ARE

QUITE DIFFERENT IN BOTH CASES. SECONDLY, SOME OF THE PARTIES WHICH RAN LISTS IN 1975 DID NOT DO SO THIS TIME AND SOME PARTIES WHICH RAN LISTS THIS TIME DID NOT RUN LISTS IN 1975. THIRDLY, SUCH COMBINATIONS AS THE PDUP, COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS RAN COMBINED LISTS IN CERTAIN OF THE WARDS IN AREZZO. FINALLY, ONLY 82 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS VOTED IN FLORENCE AND ONLY 84 PERCENT IN AREZZO, THUS LEAVING IT TO SPECULATION HOW THE NON-VOTERS WOULD HAVE VOTED.

5. DESPITE THE FOREGOING CAVEATS, HOWEVER, I THINK THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ARE OF SOME INTEREST. IN FLORENCE A GOOD PART OF THE COMMUNIST INCREASE OVER 1975 WAS PROBABLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE PDUP AND RADICALS DID NOT RUN LISTS. ALSO IN FLORENCE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INCREASE IS PROBABLY DUE TO INCREASED EFFORT AND BETTER ORGANIZATION PLUS THE WINNING OVER OF SOME MSI VOTES (SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WOULD HAVE DONE EVEN BETTER IF THE 50,000 ELIGIBLE FLORENCE VOTERS WHO DID NOT VOTE HAD GONE TO THE POLLS--THEY ASSUME A FULL TURNOUT BY THE COMMUNISTS).

6. IN AREZZO THE COMMUNIST PARTY LOSS IS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL SINCE THEY COMBINE WITH OTHER PARTIES ON LIST WHICH ACCOUNTED FOR APPROXIMATELY 14 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE. WHILE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC INCREASE IN AREZZO MAY BE PARTLY DUE TO BETTER EFFORTS AND ORGANIZATION THE LACK OF AN MSI TICKET MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THIS INCREASE. GORDON

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